

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical write apparatus comprising:  
an image display screen for displaying an image; and  
5 a role switch section for switching the image display  
screen between a role in displaying an image for observation  
and a role in writing an image onto an image record medium onto  
which an image is written upon application of light for  
representing the image.

2. The optical write apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the role switch section switches the image display  
screen between the roles by switching the optical  
characteristic of the image on the image display screen into  
different optical characteristic.

3. The optical write apparatus according to claim 2,  
further comprising a dimmer layer switched reversibly between  
light dispersion mode and light transmission mode in response  
20 to a control signal,

wherein the role switch section switches the optical  
characteristic of the image on the image display screen by  
switching the dimmer layer between the light dispersion mode  
and light transmission modes.

4. The optical write apparatus according to claim 3,  
further comprising a display panel of transmission type for  
generating an optical pattern responsive to an image signal,

wherein the dimmer layer is disposed on the front of the  
5 display panel of transmission type to form the image display  
screen; and

wherein the display panel of transmission type is  
provided with a backlight for applying directional light from  
the rear of the display panel of transmission type.

10 5. The optical write apparatus according to claim 3,  
further comprising a display panel of transmission type for  
generating an optical pattern responsive to an image signal,

wherein the dimmer layer is disposed on the front of and  
15 away from the display panel of transmission type to form the  
image display screen; and

wherein a two-dimensional lens array for forming an  
optical pattern on the display panel of transmission type on  
the dimmer layer is placed between the display panel of  
20 transmission type and the dimmer layer.

6. The optical write apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the role switch section switches the image display  
screen between the roles by switching one of a position and  
25 attitude of at least one of members forming the optical write

apparatus into one of a different position and a different attitude.

7. The optical write apparatus according to claim 1,  
5 wherein the role switch section switches the image display screen between the roles by switching display of the image display screen between an image for observation and an image for writing onto the image record medium.

10 8. The optical write apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the display of the image display screen is switched between the images different in display mode.

15 9. The optical write apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the display of the image display screen is switched between the images different in optical characteristic.

10. The optical write apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 an operation device; and

a communication section connected to a communication line for making access responsive to operation of the operation device and for receiving an image via the communication line,

wherein the image display screen is switched between the  
25 roles as the image received by the communication section is

displayed on the image display screen.

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